

**William Charles Cole Claiborne to Andrew Jackson,
September 20, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew
Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

1 Copy.

New Orleans, September 20, 1814.

Private

My D'r Sir, The enclosed paper will give you all the information we have here relative to the fall of Washington. I hope the particulars when received, will prove more honorable, than present reports to the militia of that section of the Union.

I should regret to find that the Capitol of the nation had been surrendered without one manly struggle. I hope at least, the Enemy's advance has not been bloodless. But the next mail will relieve anxiety. In the meantime I persuade myself that the whole of the Enemy's force will be captured. This must happen, if the Militia of Baltimore, of Alexandria, and the adjacent Towns, and Countys, should do their duty.

You will observe also in the enclosed paper, some very patriotic Resolutions, adopted at a meeting of the citizens of New Orleans and the names of the gentlemen composing a Committee of safety. It is however proper to inform you that their Resolutions, (altho I believe them in unison with the sentiments of the sound part of this community) ought not to be received as conclusive evidence of the public feeling. The meeting was called by Mr. Livingston, and doubtless with the best intentions. It however was very thinly attended. Mr. Livingston presided, made an elegant speech, proposed his resolutions, and the Secretary Mr. Ross named the committee, and all adopted without Comment or opposition.

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The Committee for the most part was well chosen; the greater majority being men of high standing and influence: But the manner of selecting it is not approved by the body of the Citizens, and it is manifest that many have no wish that Mr. Livingston should be a member. I regret it, for his talents would be useful, and I feel assured that at the present crisis, he thinks, and is disposed to act, as every American ought. It has been proposed (and is agreed on) to have a joint meeting of the City Council and Parish Jury for the purpose of cooperating with the constituted authorities, and naming a Committee of defence. In this way Mr. Livingston Committee will be superceeded, but in the mean time it continues to act.

I have on invitation, attended two of their sessions, at the last, an address to the people was adopted, and a letter to you agreed on, which at the request of the *Committee* , I have committed to the care of Col. Foster. The statements of the committee are correct, and the measures they advise would certainly place this State in great security.

But I have expressed to them my conviction, that they had received 2 requests which could not be complied with 3 —that they required of you a greater force, than you could furnish, and that we must draw more liberally, than we had done, from our own resources. At this moment 9 O'Clock, P. M., Shaumburg has arrived, and handed me your interesting letter of the 17th inst. with all my soul and heart, do I congratulate you in the repulse of the enemy, in his attack on Fort Boyer. 4 The Spartan Band who defended it have indeed acquired imperishable honor. The event releives in some degree my chagrine at the fall of Washington, or rather it revives my spirits and I feel that we have inherited the saber

2 Made?

3 See the letter of the committee of safety to Jackson, vol. II., pp. 51–54.

4 Bowyer. See vol. II., p. 50.

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of our ancestors—that we shall preserve an inestimable heritage of liberty and independence left us by the Patriots of Seventy Six.

I am D'r Sir, with great respect and sincere Esteem Your obdt. Svt.